

**Claims**

Claims 1-15. (canceled)

16. (previously presented) A vehicle loader mechanism carried by a vehicle having a cargo deck, comprising:

a base mounted on a cargo deck of a vehicle;

a lift mechanism;

a frame pivotally coupled to the base and terminating in an end;

a first drive linkage and a second drive linkage coupled in parallel between the base and the lift mechanism and movable between an extended configuration and a retracted configuration for lateral movement of the lift mechanism, each including a drive link pivotally coupled to the base and a drive arm pivotally coupled to the drive link and the lift mechanism;

a rod journaled concurrently through the drive arm of the first drive linkage, the end of the frame and the drive arm of the second drive linkage;

a first leveling linkage and a second leveling linkage coupled in parallel between the base and the lift mechanism to prevent tilting of the lift mechanism during movement of the first drive linkage and the second drive link between the extended configuration and the retracted configuration, each including a leveling link pivotally coupled to the base, a stop link pivotally coupled to the leveling link and the rod, and a leveling arm pivotally coupled to the stop link and the lift mechanism;

the lift mechanism movable between a lowered position and a raised position relative to the cargo deck and to the first and second drive linkages and the first and second leveling linkages in the extended configurations of the first and second drive linkages; and

a cylinder coupled between the base and the frame for moving the first drive linkage and the second drive linkage between the extended configuration and the retracted configuration.

17. (previously presented) A vehicle loader mechanism as claimed in claim 16 wherein the lift mechanism is enabled for movement between the raised and lowered positions thereof with the first drive linkage and the second drive linkage in the retracted configuration and the extended configuration, and disabled for movement between the raised and lowered positions thereof with the first drive linkage and the second drive linkage in between the extended configuration and the retracted configuration.

18. (original) A vehicle loader mechanism as claimed in claim 17 wherein the lift mechanism is enabled and disabled by signals from limit switches mounted proximate the cylinder.

Appln. Serial No.: 10/723,786

Art Unit: 3652

Atty. Docket No.: 4388-A1

19. (original) A vehicle loader mechanism as claimed  
in claim 16 wherein the base is reciprocally carried by  
tracks mountable on a vehicle.